

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. The Abstract has been amended to correct a typographical error. The Specification has been amended to reference the priority claim to parent application no. 09/333,927, now U.S. Patent No. 6,353,058, which issued on March 5, 2002. The Specification has also been amended to clarify a portion of the disclosure. Claims 8, 14, 16, and 20-21 have been rewritten to clarify the invention. As no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments at this time.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any issues pertaining to the patentability of the pending claims.

No fees are believed to be due for this amendment. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0220.

Respectfully submitted,

SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP

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By: 

John P. Mulgrew, Registration No. 47,809
SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP
3000 K Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7500 Telephone
(202) 295-8478 Facsimile

APPENDIX A. MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a golf ball comprising at least one core layer, a cover layer, and at [lest] least one intermediate layer disposed between the core and the cover, wherein the at least one layer is formed of a polymer composition comprising at least one ionomer and at least one polyamide polymer.

APPENDIX B. MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new header and paragraph after the title and before FIELD OF THE INVENTION on page 1:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/333,927, filed June 6, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,353,058, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/815,659, filed March 13, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,187,864, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace the paragraph found on page 5, lines 12-15, replace the paragraph with the following:

It should be noted that this publication does not disclose a blend of copolyamide/ionomer, nor disclose a blend of block polyamide copolymer including main chain polyether blocks/ionomer present in a cover layer, nor does it disclose a blend of polyamide/ionomer present in an intermediate layer [which] that is softer than the cover layer.

APPENDIX C. MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

8. (Amended) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the ionomer comprises a copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid groups are [fully] at least partially neutralized with at least one metal ion.
14. (Amended) The golf ball of claim 11, wherein the ionomer comprises a copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid groups are [fully] at least partially neutralized with at least one metal ion.
16. (Amended) A golf ball comprising a core and a cover wherein at least one layer comprises:
 - a core;
 - a cover comprising a first polymer composition comprising:
 - at least one polyamide polymer; and
 - at least one copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid groups are fully neutralized with at least one metal ion[;
 - an intermediate layer disposed between the core and the cover, wherein the intermediate layer comprises a second polymer composition comprising at least one ionomer and at least one polyamide polymer].
20. (Amended) The golf ball of [claim 16] claim 1, wherein the [second] polymer composition further comprises at least one copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid, wherein the carboxylic acid groups are fully neutralized with at least one metal ion comprising zinc, sodium, magnesium, manganese, calcium, lithium, or potassium.
21. (Amended) The golf ball of [claim 16] claim 20, wherein the at least one polyamide [polymers] polymer [of the first and second polymer compositions are] is selected from the group consisting of nylon 4, nylon 6, nylon 7, nylon 11, nylon 12, nylon 13, nylon

4,6, nylon 6,6, nylon 6,9, nylon 6,10, nylon 6,12, nylon 12,12, nylon 13,13, and mixtures thereof.